



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 293

Israel's Christian Population Soars as Persecution Builds Elsewhere (breitbart.com)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #population, #christian

Dec 26, 2023

Israel's Christian population is continuing to soar ever higher as persecution builds elsewhere in the Middle East, year-end figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) reveal.

According to the CBS, around 187,900 Christians live in Israel, composing 1.9 percent of the population. This represents 1.3 percent growth from the year before with followers enjoying complete religious freedom in Israel that is denied elsewhere in neighbouring countries.

The Christian population has been on the rise for at least the last two years. In 2021, the population grew by 1.4 percent to 182,000, and in 2022, there was about two percent growth to 185,000, according to the CBS.

Three-quarters (75.3 percent) are Arab Christians who make up 6.9 percent of the total Arab population, the *Jerusalem Post* [reports](#).

This contrasts with most countries in the Middle East, where Christian populations are declining, and there is "horrifying growth" of persecution designed to drive out followers of Christ.

Tera Dahl: 'Christians Are Being Eradicated from the Middle East' <https://t.co/J1yYOPArGJ>

— *Breitbart News (@BreitbartNews)* [March 28, 2016](#)

This is according to the organization [Open Doors](#), which puts out an annual "World Watch List" of where Christians suffer very high or extreme levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.

Among the top 50 countries in which Christians were persecuted in 2023 were Yemen, Libya, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco, Qatar, Egypt, Turkey, and other Middle Eastern and Muslim-majority countries.

Israel was not on the list, instead offering safe haven for persecuted Christian minorities from outside its borders.

Christians in India face persecution "in all areas of public and private life," according to a study by the Christian Aid group Open Doors. <https://t.co/naXRBTMhKR>

— *Breitbart News (@BreitbartNews)* [January 17, 2021](#)

Iran's regime in particular has waged a campaign to persecute evangelical Christians and Catholics.

Elsewhere persecuted Christians seeking to rebuild after the Islamic State genocide are still facing their own unique problems.

Christians in Iraq and Syria suffered tremendously under the Islamic State "caliphate," which the Sunni terrorist group [established](#) in 2014 and lost with the [liberation](#) of Raqqa, Syria, its "capital," in 2017, as Breitbart News [reported](#).

The region is home to the oldest Christian community on earth, dating back to the original followers of Jesus Christ, and lost almost its entire Christian population during the ISIS genocide.

Persecuted Christians seeking to rebuild after the Islamic State genocide need help to build businesses, feed their families, and stay in their home communities, Father Benedict Kiely, the founder of the church charity Nasarean. <https://t.co/B1x4R7u5id>

— *Breitbart News (@BreitbartNews)* [December 27, 2022](#)

Overall the Jewish state has a population of approximately 9.795 million people, the CBS report said. Some 7.181 million (73 percent) identify as Jewish, 2.065 million (21 percent) as Arab and 549,000 (five percent) as neither.

The country's population will reach 10 million by late 2024 and 16 million by 2048, the CBS said. By 2065, Israel's population is expected to have doubled.

[Gallant warns war could take years; says Israel targeted on 7 fronts, has hit back on 6 | The Times of Israel](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #war

Dec 26, 2023

IDF bombards Hamas in southern Gaza as ground campaign set to widen; more fighting in north despite though army says it has operational control; 2 soldiers killed, toll at 158

Israeli aircraft bombarded the southern Gaza Strip overnight in apparent preparation for expanding the military's ground offensive, the military said Tuesday, even as continued fighting near Gaza City challenged the army's claim that it was largely in control of the north of the Strip after 80 days of war.

With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other leaders vowing to continue fighting, despite growing international pressure to wind down the battle and calls at home for a deal to free hostages held in Gaza, the military appeared poised Tuesday for a newly intensified push into the central and southern parts of the Strip.

"This is a long, tough war. It has costs, heavy costs, but its justification is the highest that can be," Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told Knesset lawmakers Tuesday, hours after the army raised the death toll from the ground offensive to 158 soldiers. He vowed Israel would punish Hamas over its brutal October 7 attack, "whether it takes months or years."

He also said Israel was fighting on "seven fronts" and had hit back on six of them.

The overnight airstrikes targeted over 100 Hamas sites in the southern Gaza Strip "as part of backing for forces maneuvering on the ground," the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement.

Residents of central Gaza on Tuesday described a night of shelling and airstrikes shaking the areas of Nuseirat, Maghazi and Bureij in central Gaza, areas crowded with people who fled from the north.

According to the military Tuesday, the air force targeted tunnel shafts, military sites, and other infrastructure used by terror operatives to attack Israeli forces during the overnight operations.

The army is thought to be moving its offensive toward Khan Younis, the largest city in southern Gaza, where many leaders of the Hamas terror group are thought to have fled. On Monday, Hamas's leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar [appeared defiant](#) in his first message since the October 7 massacre, grossly inflating the terror group's achievements in the war.

During strikes in the Khan Younis area, the IDF said the 7th Armored Brigade directed IAF aircraft to hit more than 10 Hamas operatives within just a few minutes.

In another incident in Khan Younis, the IDF said the Givati Brigade spotted a Hamas cell moving toward a building used by the terror group to store weapons. An airstrike was then called in against the building.

צה"ל: במהלך היממה האחרונה כלי טיס של חיל האוויר תקף וחסל בתוך דקות בודדות יותר מ-10 מחבלים שפעלו סמוך לכוחות צה"ל במרחב ח'אן יונס / תיעוד pic.twitter.com/TvAcTUPXAj [@Doron_Kadosh](https://twitter.com/Doron_Kadosh)

— גל צ (@GLZRadio) [December 26, 2023](https://twitter.com/GLZRadio/status/1704123456789)

Two soldiers were killed in fighting in southern Gaza Monday, the army said, naming them as:

- Staff Sgt. (res.) Elisha Yehonatan Lober, 24, of the 179th Reserve Armored Brigade's 8104th Battalion, from Yitzhar.
- Sgt. First Class (res.) Joseph Yosef Gitarts, 25, of the 179th Reserve Armored Brigade's 7029th Battalion, from Tel Aviv.

Lober was killed during a gun battle with Hamas operatives, and Gitarts was killed by an anti-tank guided missile.

Fighting also persisted in northern Gaza, even as the IDF has indicated it has “operational control” over most of the area.

Overnight in Jabaliya, troops of the 261st Brigade battled a Hamas operative who attempted to place an explosive device near a tank, according to the IDF. Troops called in an airstrike against the operative, members of the cell behind the attack, as well as a building being used by the cell, the IDF said.

Meanwhile, Givati troops operating with the 401st Armored Brigade raided an Islamic Jihad compound in the Gaza City neighborhoods of Daraj and Tuffah, locating firearms, explosives, and intelligence documents, according to the IDF.

Footage released by the IDF shows troops of the 261st Brigade (the Bahad 1 officers' school in wartime) battling a Hamas operative who attempted to place an explosive device near a tank overnight in northern Gaza's Jabaliya.

At the same time, the soldiers called in an airstrike... pic.twitter.com/thmXbwNBHY

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [December 26, 2023](https://twitter.com/manniefabian/status/1704123456789)

In the same area, Nahal Brigade soldiers raided homes where they had battled Hamas fighters, finding dozens of assault rifles, grenades, and RPGs in a children's bedroom, the army said. It said the finds bolstered its contention that Hamas “hides weapons and terror activity under civilian cover.”

In a Wall Street Journal op-ed Monday, Netanyahu said the area would not see peace until Hamas was destroyed, Gaza was demilitarized and Palestinians were deradicalized, continuing to object to plans for a revamped Palestinian Authority to take over control of Gaza once the war ends.

Notably, the [premier's conditions](#) did not include the release of the 129 hostages who were kidnapped by Hamas on October 7 and are still being held by terrorists in the Gaza Strip, along with two captives and the remains of two soldiers held since 2014.

Israel launched its war against Hamas after the terror group led an unprecedented assault into southern Israel on October 7, Some 1,200 people in Israel, most of them civilians, were massacred. Another approximately 240 people were kidnapped, including women, children and the elderly. A previous truce deal allowed for the release of over 100 women and children, but talks for a new deal have foundered.

Gallant warned the Knesset's powerful Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee against allowing threats to fester along Israel's borders, saying that the military was dealing with threats on six of seven fronts, in what was seen as an implied message to Iran.

"We are in a multi-front war. We are being attacked from seven fronts — Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), Iraq, Yemen and Iran," he said. "We have already responded and acted on six of those fronts."

"Everyone who acts against us is a potential target," he added. "Nobody has immunity."

"Without meeting the goals of the war, we will find ourselves in a situation where the problem will not be those who live near Gaza or live in the north; the problem will be that people will not want to live in a place where we do not know how to protect them," he also said.

The full-throated defense of Israel's war goals came a day after families of hostages heckled the prime minister during a speech in the Knesset, as he argued that military pressure was the surest way to secure their release but required "time."

"We don't have time," one relative called out in response from the Knesset gallery, after which the families chanted "Now! Now! Now!" demanding the immediate release of the hostages.

Opposition Leader Yair Lapid, who had mostly cooled attacks on Netanyahu since the October massacres, also level criticism at the premier, telling Army Radio that he did not trust Netanyahu's management of the war.

"If the October 7 attacks happened on my watch, I would have resigned that day," Lapid said.

Netanyahu is also facing pressure from the US to quickly transition toward a less-intense form of fighting, with President Joe Biden's administration joining international calls for the humanitarian crisis in the Strip to ease, even as Washington

has continued to back Israel's refusal to entertain a ceasefire with Hamas still in charge of Gaza.

The expanding fighting has pushed the population into a shrinking area, particularly the city of Deir al-Balah in the center and Rafah at the far south of Gaza, on the Egyptian border. More than a million people have squeezed into UN shelters, and many more displaced people are crowded into houses.

Gaza's Hamas-controlled health authorities claim Israel's bombing campaign and fighting on the ground have killed over 20,600 people in Gaza, though the figures cannot be verified and Hamas has been accused of inflating casualty figures in the past, and including those killed by misfired Palestinian rockets.

Hamas does not differentiate between civilians and combatants, though it claims that the dead include thousands of women and children.

The IDF says it has killed some 8,000 Hamas operatives in Gaza and another 1,000 terrorists during and immediately after the October 7 attacks.

[Gallant envisions multinational force leading Gaza rebuilding, though allies have made clear it'll be contingent on two states | The Times of Israel](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #gaza, #two states

Jan 4, 2023

Presenting his plan for post-war Gaza, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant outlines a “four-cornered civilian square,” including Israel, the Palestinians, a multinational task force and Egypt.

Israel “will provide information to guide civilian operations” and also carry out inspection of goods entering Gaza in order to ensure that no weapons are smuggled into the enclave, Gallant says.

A Palestinian entity in charge of governing Gaza will build on existing administrative mechanisms to help restore operations in the Strip, Gallant says.

A multinational force led by the United States in partnership with Israel’s European and Arab allies will take responsibility for the reconstruction of Gaza after the war, the defense minister envisions.

Those allies have repeatedly made clear, however, that their support for the reconstruction of Gaza is conditioned on the Palestinian Authority being the governing body that reunites the Strip with the West Bank and that the process be part of a broader initiative aimed at an eventual two-state solution.

Gallant carefully avoids mentioning the PA at all in his plan, amid Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s repeated rejection of the body led by President Mahmoud Abbas.

US and Israeli officials have told The Times of Israel that Netanyahu’s aides have privately expressed their support for an “RPA” or “reformed PA,” eventually governing Gaza, while the premier himself has not spoken publicly about this idea amid fears of alienating far-right ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir.

Gallant’s description of “existing administrative mechanisms” is similar to Netanyahu’s talk of a “civil administration” — both terms widely understood to mean PA-affiliated bodies.

But more unpopular than talk of a PA-controlled Gaza Strip after October 7 would be an Israeli commitment to move toward a two-state solution, and Gallant did not specify how Israel plans to recruit allies abroad to help it rebuild the Strip without taking steps toward Palestinian statehood.

As for the fourth corner of Gallant's civilian square, the defense minister highlights Egypt, which he says will remain a major actor, given that it border with Gaza. "We maintain an ongoing dialogue with Egyptian partners about interim and long-term solutions," he says.

[Russia moves forward with Iran deal to purchase ballistic missiles, report says \(foxnews.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #iran, #missiles

Jan 4, 2024

Moscow, Tehran approach deal on sale of Iranian short-range ballistic missiles, a new report says

[Russia is reportedly](#) moving forward with a deal to purchase short-range ballistic missiles from Iran.

The Wall Street Journal first reported on the tentative sale agreement on Thursday, citing unnamed U.S. officials.

The officials say the missiles would boost Russia's ability to target Ukrainian infrastructure at a time when support for continued U.S. military assistance for Kyiv is waning in Congress.

"The United States is concerned that Russian negotiations to acquire close-range ballistic missiles from Iran are actively advancing," one of the U.S. officials told the Journal. "We assess that Russia intends to purchase missile systems from Iran."

The officials told the Journal they do not believe the agreement has been finalized but predict the first [deliveries of Iranian missiles](#) could take place by the spring.

Moscow has already begun receiving ballistic-missile launchers and several dozen ballistic missiles from North Korea, the officials said.

Russia's interest in obtaining Iranian missiles was first made apparent in mid-December, when a Russian delegation visited an Iranian training area to view ballistic missiles and related equipment displayed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force, including its short-range Ababil missile, according to the U.S. officials speaking to the Journal.

The previously undisclosed trip came after Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visited the headquarters of the IRGC Aerospace Force in Tehran in September to observe a display of the Ababil and other missile systems, the officials said. At that time, Shoigu also met with Maj. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, the chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, and touted that relations between Russia and Iran were approaching new heights.

That visit came the same month [Russian President Vladimir Putin](#) and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held a summit at a spaceport in Russia's far east to pledge greater cooperation on economic and security issues. Several officials familiar with the

transaction told the Journal that North Korea has since started to ship a range of weaponry to Russia, including, for the first time, short-range ballistic missiles to eastern Russia. The officials said the weaponry includes previously reported stocks of artillery.

Moscow's approach could include increasing the number of missiles launched in a bid to overwhelm Ukraine's antimissile defenses, as indicated by Russia's efforts to increase supply through [deals with North Korea](#) and now Iran. Russia has already obtained many drones from Iran used in the Ukraine war, the Journal reported, and Moscow and Tehran are together building a new factory in Russia that U.S. officials assess could manufacture thousands of drones for fighting Kyiv's forces.

There is growing concern from the U.S. that strengthening cooperation between Moscow and Tehran could bolster Iran's military capability in the Middle East and an economy crippled by Western sanctions.

A [United Nations](#) Security Council resolution adopted after the 2015 Iran nuclear deal that prohibited Iran from exporting or importing some types of missiles and drones, as well as military technology used to produce and operate missiles, without the council's approval, formally expired in October. In response, the U.S. slapped Iran with more sanctions intended to discourage Tehran's missile trade and released a pledge with 47 other countries to stifle Iran's sale of ballistic missiles and related technology.

Russia's Foreign Ministry, however, said the U.N. ban on Iranian missile sales no longer needed to be followed – a move that contrasts with Moscow's previous cooperation with the U.S., European nations and China in negotiating the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran, as well as Russia's 2017 support for the U.N. Security Council implementing sanctions against North Korea in response to its nuclear and ballistic missile activities. Since the Ukraine war, a former State Department official told the Journal, Russia's foreign policy now focuses on "undermining U.S. interests."

BRICS Group Enters 2024 With 5 New Members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa Joined by Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Iran, and Ethiopia | The Gateway Pundit | by Paul Serran

#bibleprophecy, #10 nations, #world government, #global

Jan 2, 2024

It's a multipolar world. And the BRICS countries mean to put this new reality to their advantage as much as they can.

The new year begins with a brand new reality for the BRICS group: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are now joined by Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Iran, and Ethiopia as new members.

Read: BRICS Summit, Day One: Xi Hypes the 'Global South', Putin Sees 'Alternative to G7', Modi Touts Indian Economy, Lula Calls for Common Currency, Ramaphosa Stresses Ties Between Members

Saudi state TV celebrated that the kingdom would officially join the BRICS bloc of countries.

Reuters reported:

"Saudi Arabia's foreign minister had said in August the kingdom would study the details before the proposed Jan. 1 joining date and take 'the appropriate decision'.

Prince Faisal bin Farhan had said the BRICS group was 'a beneficial and important channel' to strengthen economic cooperation.

[...] continued strong ties with the U.S., Saudi Arabia has increasingly pursued its own path out of concern that Washington is less committed to the Gulf's security than in the past."

Saudi Arabia's biggest oil customer is China, a country which has led calls for the BRICS to expand, and become a counterweight to the West.

The BRICS countries mean to become champions of the 'Global South', a platform for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries.

With the doubling of its members, the group's clout on the global stage is expected to increase.

[Africa News](#) reported:

“The newly expanded BRICS has a combined population of about 3.5 billion people, with a combined economy worth over \$28.5tn or about 28% of the global economy”

BRICS countries are hoping that the expansion will lead to greater representation for emerging economies and a chance to move away from reliance on the US dollar.

In August last year, Brazil’s president called for BRICS nations to adopt a common currency for trade and investment between each other.

Other feature of the new year: Russia took over the BRICS presidency, following on from South Africa’s chairmanship in 2023. Russian President Vladimir Putin’s [official address](#) as new BRICS president:

“On January 1, Russia was passed the baton of the BRICS chairmanship, an association which, according to the decision adopted by the 15th BRICS Summit in August 2022, now includes 10 countries. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members which is a strong indication of the growing authority of the association and its role in international affairs.

BRICS is attracting an ever increasing number of supporters and like-minded countries that share its underlying principles, namely, sovereign equality, respect for the chosen path of development, mutual consideration of interests, openness, consensus, the aspiration to form a multipolar international order and a fair global financial and trade system, and pursuit of collective solutions to top challenges of our time.”

Putin (cont.) : *“In general, Russia will continue to promote all aspects of the BRICS partnership in three key areas: politics and security, economy and finance, and cultural and humanitarian contacts.*

Naturally, we will focus on enhancing foreign policy coordination among the member countries and on jointly seeking effective responses to the challenges and threats to international and regional security and stability.

[...] Our priorities include promoting cooperation in science, high technology, healthcare, environmental protection, culture, sports, youth exchanges, and civil society.

In total, over 200 events of different levels and types will be held in many Russian cities as part of the chairmanship. We encourage representatives of all countries interested in cooperating with our organization to take part in them. The BRICS Summit in Kazan in October will be the culmination of our chairmanship.

As Russia assumes its chairmanship, it looks forward to working productively with all countries in the BRICS orbit.

[2023 was the year campus antisemitism finally got its reckoning after college students cheer for terrorism \(foxnews.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #universities, #united states

Dec 26, 2023

'The Oct. 7th terrorist attacks by Hamas exposed [systemic Jew-hatred on college campuses] reality like never before,' said Brooke Goldstein

The year 2023, particularly the months after the Oct. 7 terror attacks, featured lawsuits, [congressional investigations](#), and threats to cut federal funding from elite universities. It was the year that campus antisemitism, long bubbling under the radar on college campuses, finally got its reckoning.

Jonah Cohen, a communications director at the [Committee for Accuracy of Middle East Reporting in America](#), told Fox News Digital, "Americans are beginning to awaken to the presence of extremist and antisemitic ideologies prevailing in our universities."

Israel declared war against Hamas after the terrorist group infiltrated the country on Oct. 7, firing thousands of rockets at residential areas and butchering, raping and torturing its civilians. At least 1,200 Israelis and 32 Americans were killed; over 240 people were taken as hostages into the Gaza Strip.

"The Oct. 7th terrorist attacks by Hamas exposed [[systemic Jew-hatred](#) on college campuses] reality like never before," Brooke Goldstein of the Lawfare Project told Fox News.

Following these events, protests broke out on college campuses – and pro-Palestinian demonstrations frightened Jewish students for, in many cases, sympathizing with Hamas' crimes and justifying them.

"The barbarity and pure evil of the unspeakable acts committed by these terrorists against civilians - men, women, and children - shocked the world. But what was just as shocking was what we saw next: college students and faculty cheering these attacks," Goldstein said.

At Cornell University, students told Fox News Digital they felt unsafe when a professor, Russell Rickford, said he was "exhilarated" after the Hamas terrorist attack. Students at Cornell, and around the country, also faced hostile rhetoric and chants from their peers such as calls for the elimination of Israel "From the river to the sea" and for "Intifada" – the Arabic word for "uprising" that also refers to violent Palestinian resistance efforts.

[‘PURE HATE’: JEWISH STUDENTS DISCUSS LIFE IN WAKE OF ISRAEL WAR](#)

"How can Jewish students feel safe on this campus when this abhorrent hate speech is occurring near our campus? This institution cannot allow an antisemite and justifier of terror to use Cornell to give his viewpoint legitimacy," [Cornell Student Netanel Shapira](#) said.

The hostilities from the anti-Israel crowd – and their disruptions – led Brandeis University, Rutgers, Columbia University and George Washington University to [suspend its Students for Justice in Palestine chapters](#). The SJP's national chapter called the Hamas terrorist attack a "historic win" for Palestinian resistance.

SJP was contacted for comment.

Brandeis cited concerns about whether the group's [rhetoric was supportive of Hamas](#). It reminded students that such behavior "will be considered to be in violation of the University's student code of conduct."

In the most extreme case, [GWU students projected Palestinian phrases](#) on a school building stating, "Glory to our martyrs."

The State of Florida, under the [DeSantis administration](#), directed its colleges to terminate student chapters that support "Hamas terrorism." The directive warned that it was a "felony under Florida law to knowingly provide material support ... to a designated foreign terrorist organization."

"Students for Justice in Palestine and its related groups have not only repeatedly cheered antisemitic terrorism, they have advocated importing it to America," said Liora Rez from StopAntisemitism, referring to chants for "Intifada."

"Their presence on campus inarguably leads to more hostility towards Jews, and their unrepentant embrace of violence should disqualify them from every campus in the country," she continued.

Roz Rothstein of the pro-Israel group StandWithUs told Fox News she believed SJP chapters have feigned concern for social justice in order to gain supporters, and then laid the groundwork for "extreme campus antisemitism."

Jewish students had, for years, complained about campus antisemitism at universities. But it came to a boiling point when the nation heard the leaders of the most elite universities in the country [voluntarily showed up to a congressional hearing](#) and then refused to state that calls for genocide against Jews violated its policy. Donors pulled their money, firms threatened to strip recruitments, and now some students are questioning their interests in elite institutions such as Harvard.

"For over two decades, we've raised concerns about this issue... and it appears that now, finally, our warnings are resonating with the wider public," Cohen said.

Following the shocking testimony, the [House Committee on Education & the Workforce](#) announced an investigation into Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania and MIT over "rampant antisemitism." Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., promised a "reckoning" for Jew-hatred.

At the same time, the U.S. Department of Education is launching investigations into universities such as Cooper Union, Columbia University, Cornell, UPenn, and Lafayette, to name a few.

Law firms are also taking notice and are launching civil action over accusations that college campuses may be violating students' Title VI civil rights by creating a hostile environment and failing to take reasonable action against antisemitism.

A major NYC law firm, [Kasowitz Benson Torres](#), said it was focusing on legal action against Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, New York University, MIT, Stanford, University of Pennsylvania and UC-Berkeley – but that their scope will likely expand as students' complaints continue to pour in.

"The appalling Congressional testimony of the university presidents earlier this month demonstrated why it's so necessary for us to seek relief in court. They exposed themselves before the entire country as not only clueless but dangerous, unable to admit that students should not be permitted to call for the genocide of Jewish people," said a partner at the firm, Mark Ressler, in a statement to Fox News.

He added that he is looking forward to publicly sharing "revealing the full extent of the... hypocrisy" as discovery unfolds.

The testimony from the elite presidents also led to increased scrutiny of the presidents, with critics calling for their resignations. The University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill subsequently resigned.

"Their failure... represents a systemic crisis in higher education, under which Jews are targeted with impunity," said Rez from StopAntisemitism.

Harvard's Claudine Gay's academic work was given a fresh look, and she now faces 40 accusations of [academic dishonesty – plagiarism](#). Republican members of Congress expanded their probe into Harvard to include these allegations, stating that refusing to take action against President Gay "cheapens its mission and the value of its education."

In fact, some students are rejecting offers to top-tier schools because of the "stigma" associated with the institutions.

"Virtually every student I've ever worked with who got into Harvard early pretty much stopped [looking elsewhere]," Christopher Rim, CEO of New York and Miami-based Command Education, said Wednesday on "FOX & Friends First."

"This is the first time this has happened," he continued. "Normally, my student will get into Harvard or a top-tier school, and then that'll be it. We're done. So congratulations."

We've finished the process, but now we're seeing students say, 'You know what? Let me double think this. Let me think about other options.'

In November, over two dozen [Wall Street law firms warned colleges](#) that if they didn't address the pro-Hamas sentiment on campuses, it would affect their incentive to hire their students.

The letter said, "As employers who recruit from each of your law schools, we look to you to ensure your students who hope to join our firms after graduation are prepared to be an active part of workplace communities that have zero tolerance policies for any form of discrimination or harassment, much less the kind that has been taking place on some law school campuses."

Other law firms such as Edelson PC announced they would no longer participate in recruiting opportunities because of how Harvard and President Gay handled the aftermath of her [disastrous testimony before Congress](#) on antisemitism at the school.

"We have no intention of returning to on-campus recruiting unless there is a sea change. The easiest solution would be for Harvard to simply remove Dr. Gay," the law firm's founder, Jay Edelson, said.

Additionally, the financial penalties for antisemitism have been brutal – they're [bleeding by hundreds of millions of dollars](#).

Billionaires are pulling back on donations to leading Ivy League colleges amid allegations of antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment that have become more visible in the wake of Hamas' terror attack on Israel, Fox Business reported.

For example, Columbia alum and billionaire Leon Cooperman, chairman and CEO of Omega Advisors who started Goldman Sachs's asset management division, is also [halting donations](#) after having given \$50 million to the institution over the years.

The Wexner Foundation, named for billionaire and former Victoria's Secret CEO Les Wexner, informed Harvard that it is "[no longer compatible partners](#)" with the prestigious university it has worked with for over three decades.

Billionaire investor and influential Harvard alum Bill Ackman claimed the Harvard president's handling of [antisemitism on campus](#) since the Oct. 7 terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel has cost the university more than a billion dollars in donations.

In addition to pressure from donors, the universities also face calls to have federal funding stripped over [antisemitism from the GOP](#).

Less than two weeks after the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, a group of GOP senators, led by Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., introduced legislation that would rescind federal education funding for colleges and universities that allow "violent antisemitism," pointing directly to Harvard's silence at the time after more than 30 student organizations at the school blamed Israel for Hamas' attack on its civilians.

"We must defund the rot in America's higher education," Stefanik said. "It is unacceptable and unAmerican that any taxpayer dollars are going to universities propping up their promulgation of antisemitism by supporting professors, students and staff many who have openly called for the genocide of Jews."

"We will use every tool at our disposal to ensure that schools that protect and encourage antisemitism are cut off from any and all federal funds," she added.

Goldstein from the Lawfare Project said, "The haters have come out of their holes. There is no more pretending that anti-Zionism isn't antisemitism. No more pretending these are innocent grassroots student groups or mere activists expressing controversial speech on campus. They are radicals hell-bent not just on terrorizing the Jewish community, but all of America, as we see in city after city, some of whom are connected with foreign terrorist organizations."

[Earthquakes leave at least 65 dead along Japan's western coast \(foxweather.com\)](#)

Update: [84 Dead, 179 Missing as 72-Hour Japan Quake Rescue Window Closes | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #japan, #tsunami

Jan 3, 2024

A series of powerful earthquakes hit western Japan on Monday, leaving at least 65 people dead.

ISHIKAWA, Japan – A series of powerful [earthquakes](#) hit western Japan on Monday, causing widespread damage and claiming the lives of at least 65 people. Now, the race is on to search for any additional survivors and get badly needed relief supplies to the hard-hit areas.

Bad weather, freezing temperatures and hundreds of aftershocks since [the initial magnitude 7.5 earthquake](#) have only added additional challenges to relief efforts.

The earthquakes caused extensive damage to buildings, vehicles and boats. Authorities also issued a [Tsunami](#) Warning for the western coast and a Landslide Warning for Ishikawa, Niigata, Toyama, and Fukui prefectures, according to the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

As tsunami waves hit Japan's western seaboard, people in coastal areas were forced to evacuate to higher ground while the water swept cars and houses away.

[Japan's Meteorological Agency says there have been nearly 500 aftershocks](#) since the initial quake and warns that "strong aftershocks may occur in the next week." The country is situated on the "Ring of Fire," making it prone to earthquakes.

Earthquake rescue crews have difficulty reaching hardest-hit areas

As many as 33,000 people have evacuated their homes and some areas have no access to water or electricity as temperatures drop below freezing, Reuters reports. The temperature dropped to 30 degrees at Noto Tuesday morning.

In response to the [disaster](#), the Japanese [military](#) has deployed 1,000 soldiers to the affected regions, where over 3,000 first responders are already present. They are currently working together to assist with rescue and recovery efforts that are still ongoing in the Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture, the epicenter of the earthquake.

[WHAT TO DO DURING AND AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE](#)

According to local media, rescuers had warned trapped residents that they were initially having difficulty reaching the northern tip of the peninsula where helicopter surveys have discovered many fires and widespread damage. But Reuters reports the

government has since opened a sea route to deliver aid and some larger trucks were now able to reach some of the more remote areas.

More than 500 people were stranded at Noto's airport after the quake, which has closed due to cracks in its runway and access road and damage to its terminal building, [Reuters](#) reports.

Shoppers huddled together as a store shook in Oyabe. Koichi Teramae recorded video at Mitsui Outlet Park after the lights in the store had gone out.

"The shaking was so strong that I couldn't walk," Teramae said.

JAPAN STRUCK BY DEADLY EARTHQUAKE, TRIGGERING TSUNAMI WARNINGS

Although some train services have resumed in certain regions, many highways remain closed, and water pipes and cell phone services have been severely damaged in some areas.

Footage captured by Hsu TeWei showed people taking cover as items fall from shelves in Kanazawa rail station, located in the Ishikawa prefecture. According to local news outlets, rail officials reported that service out of Kanazawa had been canceled due to the [flooding](#) caused by the earthquake.

SHOPPERS AT ISHIKAWA MALL REACT TO STRONG EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN

Significant cracks were found on the roads in central Japan. A user named @Good4time800 posted a video on X, claiming that it was shot on National Route 249. This highway connects the Nanao and Kanazawa areas in the Ishikawa region of Japan.

EFFECTS OF STRONG EARTHQUAKE FELT NEAR JAPANESE COAST

The rainfall in the forecast has raised concerns about further damage to already-weakened structures.

Monday's earthquake in Japan was the deadliest since 2016, when a 7.3 magnitude quake hit Kumamoto, claiming over 220 lives.

[Methodist Church issues guidance discouraging use of terms 'husband' and 'wife' \(christiantoday.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #methodists, #apostasy, #woke

Jan 2, 2024

The Methodist Church in Great Britain released an "Inclusive Language Guide" this month advising Methodists to avoid using gendered terms such as "husband" and "wife" because such allegedly assumes what is not "the reality for many people."

"As Christians, we need to have the courage for conversations that can sometimes be difficult, to recognize that we sometimes exclude people, to listen with humility, to repent of any hurtful language and to take care with how we listen and what we say or write, in the Spirit of Christ," says the guidance, which will be updated every six months.

The guidance offered as a general principle the idea that there is "infinite variety in the way that God's creation is expressed in human life," and offered "husband" and "wife" as examples of terminology that "may sound inoffensive but it makes assumptions about a family or personal life that is not the reality for many people."

The guidance offered the words "parent," "partner," "child," and "carer" as suitable alternatives.

The guide goes on to list extensive categories of people with whom Methodists are advised to use "sensitive and inclusive" language when addressing minorities that have been "marginalized and/or demonized by common culture."

The guide urges steering clear of "ageism" by avoiding terms like "old people," to embrace "anti-racist language" by encouraging use of "ethnicity" instead of "race," and to avoid language that negatively emphasizes a person's immigration status or English skills.

Antisemitic and Islamophobic rhetoric are also discouraged, and the guidance also encourages Methodists to tread carefully with their terminology when addressing "disabled and neurodiverse people" and those with mental illness.

The guide suggested it was important that the Methodist Church "uses language that is inclusive of LGBT+ people," and advised using the language an individual prefers, including the pronouns by which they choose to identify.

The denomination passed resolutions in 2021 to approve the blessing of same-sex unions and recognize cohabitating couples.

"Using the language that individuals use for themselves shows that we care as a Church and that we affirm them as a child of God," the guidance says.

The guidance concludes by pointing readers to nonprofits that include the left-wing Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and Stonewall, an LGBT charity in the U.K. whose guidance found its way into schools throughout the country.

"We are proud of our Inclusive Language Guide," a spokesperson for the denomination told The Christian Post. "It helps the Church hold conversations without making assumptions or inadvertently causing upset. Some find this especially useful when talking with those who may have had a different life experience to their own."

Regarding whether gendered language would still be used in Methodist marriage ceremonies, the spokesperson said: "Couples getting married in a Methodist Church will discuss with the minister how they wish to be referred to during their service. This ensures that the ceremony reflects who they are."

Father Calvin Robinson, who has been outspoken in fighting progressivism in the Church of England, blasted the U.K.-based Methodist Church for its guidance and suggested it's symptomatic of a neo-Marxist attempt to effectively destroy it.

"This is not Christianity," Robinson wrote on X. "It is Critical Theories: 'smash heteronormativity.' It is no longer enough to acknowledge disordered lifestyles. Everything normative and ordered must be demolished for fear of causing offense."

"Critical Theories is neo-Marxism. It is a communist ideology, antithetical to the Christian faith. It is not possible to be a communist *and* a Christian. One must make a choice. Embrace the ways of this trendy yet toxic ideology, or embrace God's order," he continued, and urged the Methodist Church to "pick one."

[Knesset Member declares from podium: “I believe in the Messiah” - Israel365 News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #messiah, #knesset, #faith

Dec 25, 2023

Likud Member of Knesset Galit Distel-Atbaryan addressed the plenum on Wednesday, and despite self-identifying as non-religious, her address praised the “messianic” manifestations appearing among the IDF in Gaza.

Distel-Atbaryan described a gathering of hundreds of soldiers singing “Ani Maamin” (“I believe”) before going into combat in Gaza. The song’s words are “I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah, and, though he tarry, I will wait daily for his coming”. It is the twelfth of Maimonides’ thirteen-point version of the principles of faith and is a declaration of a belief that the Messiah will surely come.

IDF heroes singing, "Ani Maamin", "I believe", before entering combat, to fight vile Hamas terrorists and rapists. Nothing can break their spirit!! pic.twitter.com/kNxiJd18po

— *Awesome Jew (@Jewsarethegoat)* [December 19, 2023](#)

“Yesterday, I saw one of the most touching films I have seen that came out of this war until now. Hundreds of soldiers in one hall, singing that they believe with complete faith in the coming of the Messiah. It is a little strange, because as emotional as this is, every newspaper you open, every television show you watch, every article in *Haaretz*, define this belief in the Messiah, this burning and eternal belief of the nation of Israel, this Messianic belief, as the greatest existential danger to our country right now. It doesn’t matter that this is how we define our soldiers indirectly, those who do the Kohanic blessing in Gaza, those who sing in honor of the Messiah in Gaza, those who put on tefillin in Gaza. These ‘Messianics’ that die in Gaza, and protect us in Gaza, they are a danger because they are ‘Messianic’? It doesn’t matter that it is strange that for the eternal nation that one thing that kept us was our belief that the Messiah would one day come. Suddenly, this belief is considered a curse or an existential threat to the country.

“I want to put these strange things to the side in order to make a confession. I used to have different messiahs. I used to believe in a messiah called the Green Line. I went to a stationery store and bought a green felt tip marker. I scribbled some lines on a map and that was my messiah. After that, my messiah was the Oslo Accords.”

“These messiahs were false messiah. Not only were they false, but they were dangerous. For one moment, I want to defend the Messiah of the Jewish nation, the concept of the messiah. I wonder what went wrong with us as a nation that this ascendant idea, this progression towards the eternal that brings the Jewish Messiah, why is it so ridiculous and ridiculed as being dangerous?”

Distel-Atbaryan then quoted the Book of Isaiah:

And they shall beat their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not take up Sword against nation; They shall never again know war. [Isaiah 2:4](#)

“My Messiah commands me to dream of peace,” she continued. “My Messiah commands me to wish for brotherhood between nations. My Messiah is eternal.”

“I want to use this opportunity, to stand in the Knesset of Israel in 2023 and to say with great pride; I, Member of the Knesset, Galit Distel-Atbaryan, believe with complete faith in the coming of the Messiah, and even if he delays, I will wait for him every day to arrive. And he will come, quickly. Amen.”

At least one of the MKs in attendance echoed her ‘amen’.